

# Whalesong

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University of Alaska Southeast, Juneau Campus

November 25, 1997

## Gov. wants \$3.5 million increase for UA Knowles also proposes new state scholarship program

By Matt Miller  
Whalesong Photo Editor

The Knowles Administration is pushing for a funding increase for the statewide university system and is also recommending a new scholarship program to attract and keep Alaskan students. The proposals were unveiled during a videoconference Nov. 10.

Gov. Tony Knowles wants to restore a 2 percent cut made by legislators last session, and he proposes tapping the state's general fund to increase next year's budget by another \$3.5 million. That would bring the total university system budget back up to \$167.8 million.

"This increase — while modest — does represent, I think, an investment and a direction for an institution that's vital to preparing Alaska and Alaskans for the challenges of the next century," Knowles said.

Knowles pointed out that "this year's cut of about \$3.3 million was one of the largest reductions in recent memory," and he singled out Alaska and Hawaii as the only two states cutting their statewide university budgets. He praised university administration officials for finding ways to become more efficient, but he doesn't believe the system can absorb more cuts without inflicting serious harm on enrollment.

If the appropriation is approved by the legislature, the University of Alaska Southeast would receive about \$300,000 with approximately two-thirds of that amount going to the Juneau campus.

"We've been going through some belt tightening exercises for a number of years," said UAS Chancellor Marshall Lind. "It's nice to know that there's support for a bit of an increase." Lind said any extra funds would likely be earmarked for additional faculty and courses.

Knowles assured regents and staff that deferred maintenance and new capital projects for the university are still a priority, but he hasn't made any firm decisions yet on funding specific projects.

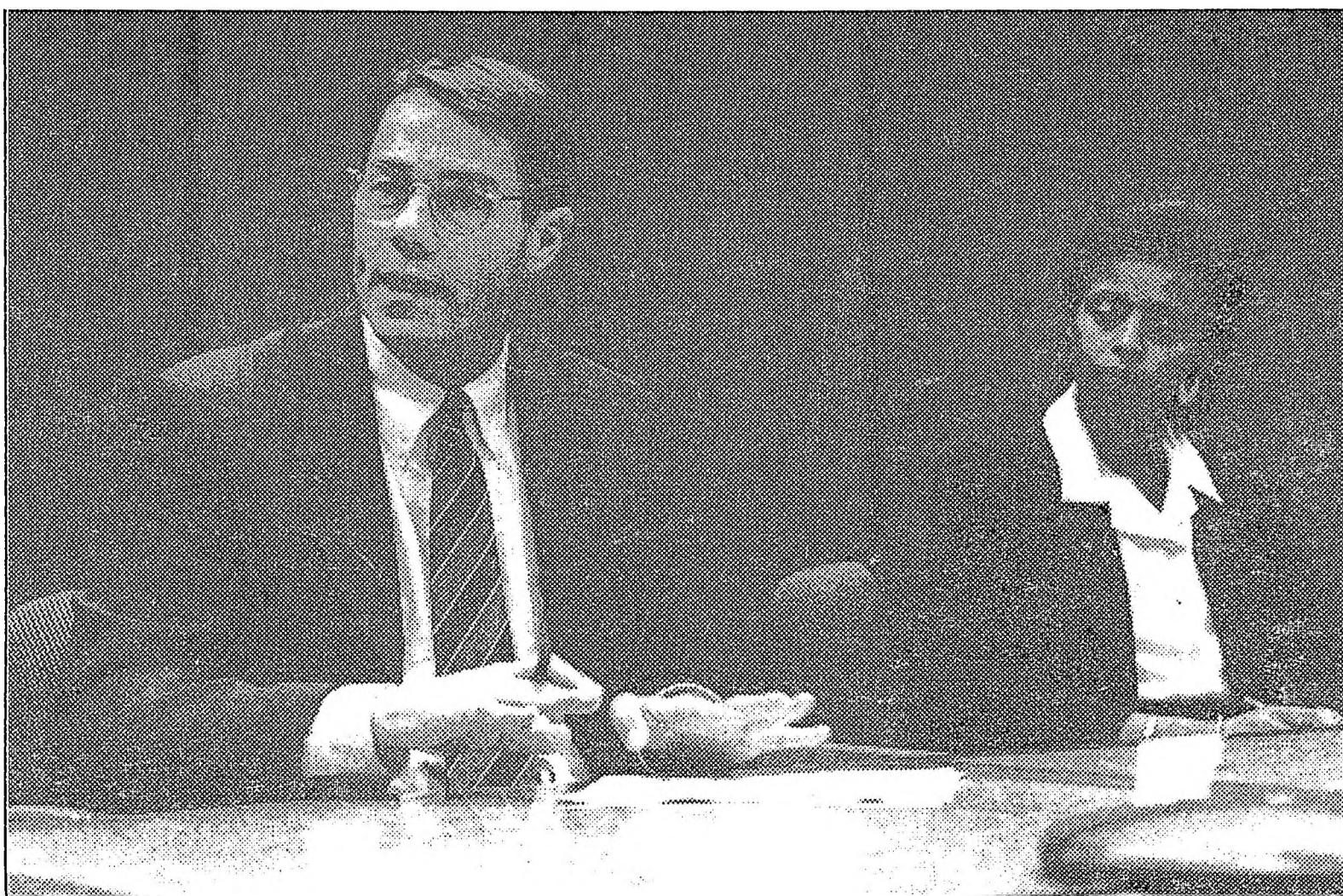


Photo by Matt Miller

Gov. Tony Knowles doesn't want university funding to get any lower and is now pushing for an increase over current levels. Staff and regents like Juneau businesswoman Elsa Demeksa (right) appreciate his support.

Knowles is also proposing a new statewide scholarship program that will provide higher education for children of working families. The Alaska Scholars Program — as he has dubbed it — is also intended to attract talented Alaskan students and keep them from migrating to Outside schools. Only

one in two Alaskan students who go Outside for their education ever return, and Knowles voiced concern about money from Alaskan banks and scholarship funds leaving the

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## Dennis Russell: UAS biology professor is a philosopher at heart

By Heather Montez  
Whalesong Reporter

Dennis Russell has a doctorate in marine biology, but it's his liberal arts background that he looks back on with the most fondness.

Russell came to Juneau to visit and discuss the possibilities of a job in August of 1993. "I could see that some really good work was being done here and I wanted to be a part of it," Russell said. He was interested in a small liberal arts college and found UAS to be the perfect spot.

"As an undergraduate I got a bachelor of arts degree and I personally think a bachelor of arts degree, a liberal education, is a superior education rather than a specific science degree. Because not only did I major in biology, I got a degree in German as well and that has brought me a whole lot."

Russell was attracted to the size of the UAS. He said, "It's attached to a great big university statewide so you can be in a small school and a big school at the same time. It's a perfect place." Russell added, "I don't need much, a small office, some microscopes, and good access to computers and libraries."

Russell gives the credit of finding his job to an old student whom he had kept in contact with over the years. He stressed that those connections you keep with friends are the most important thing a person can have. "Always value your friends and the people you come in contact with above everything else. Your friends are the most valuable thing you have in life. I think that's the liberal arts in me," he said.

Russell is originally from Portland, Ore. He received a bachelor of liberal arts degree in German from Cascade College in 1967 and immediately went on to get his master's degree from the University of Washington in marine biology. Upon completing his master's in 1969, he was drafted into the Army. Stationed in Aberdeen Proving Grounds in

Maryland, he worked in the Science and Engineering Corps on biological chemical warfare defense. His specialty was weapon effectiveness, transport and defense of nerve gas. After two years in the Army, Russell entered the University of Hawaii on a National Defense Fellowship and the GI bill. He completed his doctorate there in 1981.

He started teaching that same year at Seattle Pacific University where he stayed for 15 years. In 1994, Russell decided he had outgrown the private university atmosphere and wanted a fresh view on life. Because Seattle Pacific had religious affiliations, teaching things like evolution was a problem. He felt he wanted a little more freedom and a lot more variety of students. "I don't care if they're religious, atheist, body-pierced, intellectual or average, I like variety," he said.

Russell loves his students and encourages them to take science courses. He said he has a special fondness for the average student. "I personally believe very strongly in the average student because people that struggle build character. People that build character from the struggle in life go on to do things that other people say they can't do," Russell said.

Russell told of a D student he had at Seattle Pacific who he kept in contact with while the student was in the Army. "He came back and got A's and B's, went to Auburn to get his masters, and is now getting his Ph.D.," he said. Another student who graduated with a 2.5, went on to get his master's and Ph.D. and is now Director of the Department of Natural Resources in the Arab Emirate States. "I consider all my students valuable and I don't base it on grades," Russell said.

This semester at UAS Russell teaches Biology 105 and General Botany. For the spring semester he will be offering a course on Wetland Plants and Biology 106. In the summer he will be teaching: Principles of Micro Biology, Vascular Plants

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Photo by Matt Miller

An eagle in a nearby tree is oblivious as UAS biology Professor Dr. Dennis Russell and his wife, Chris Wyatt, check out more eagles on the opposite shore of the Chilkat River during a recent field trip (See related story on pages 6 & 7).

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## Regents Meetings Need More Public Participation, Media Coverage

By Alexis Ross Miller  
Whalesong Editor

On Thursday and Friday, Nov. 20 and 21, I attended my first Board of Regents (BOR) meeting in Anchorage at the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA). I was immediately reminded of the Alaska State Legislature and the many meetings and hearings I have attended during my 10 years as a legislative aide.

I think, on the one hand, it was beneficial that the meetings were held at UAA in the middle of the Campus Center, which was right near the cafeteria and the UAA student newspaper office, because it is centrally located and is the main thoroughfare at UAA. This location provided easy access for university students and personnel to attend these hearings. However, the noise level and the heavy foot traffic in this area was often very distracting during the committee meetings and the full BOR meeting because students could be heard through the walls of the meeting rooms.

I was surprised at the lack of advertisement to students and to the general population that these meetings were occurring. I noticed no signs at UAA announcing these meetings and although it was easy to find the two meeting rooms, I thought they should have been clearly marked with "Board of Regents Meetings in Progress" to inform students and the general public.

The main reason I think this is important is that many students I talked to and other non-students in Anchorage, many who work for the legislature, were unaware that these meetings were taking place. I was also surprised by the ineffective microphone system used during these meetings. Unlike the legislature where every legislator is trained to speak into his or her microphones—because they realize that the public has a right to know and to hear—the regents shared microphones and many times it was extremely difficult to hear their comments or questions because there was not a microphone directly in front of them.

I think that considering the University of Alaska's budget there should be a much better microphone system used for these meetings, and I suggest that the legislature be consulted since they use the top-of-the-line telecommunications system to record their meetings and hearings. I would even imagine that the legislature's system could be borrowed,

especially during the interim.

I also think that perhaps in the future these meetings could be teleconferenced to the other campuses around the state. Since the regents only hold meetings every few months, I do not see why this cost could not be incurred by the university system. The saying "information is power" is a good one and should be thought of in a positive fashion, not a negative one, when planning these meetings. Again, I think the university should turn to the legislature for assistance and direction in promoting meetings and hearings about the university. The legislature has

*I guess I was and still am surprised that there wasn't more coverage the two-day hearings of the Board of Regents in Anchorage last week. . . I don't know if the media is to blame for their lack of interest or it is the university's fault.*

I'm sure there are many people who would have liked to attend the regents meeting in Anchorage, but were unable to afford the cost of travel to Alaska's largest city, and thus were unable to participate in the process. I believe this process should be a more public one and should seek additional input from students, staff, faculty and non-university folks as well.

The governor recently held a videoteleconference on the university budget and the three main campuses (UAS, UAA, and UAF) were hooked up for his speech. This allowed students, faculty and administration to sit in on this important event. I think the same thing should occur each time there is a Board of Regents meeting. I spoke with Bob King, the governor's top press aide, and he said that his office has used the university's videoteleconferencing equipment in the past, at both the UAS and UAA campuses. It was at his office's direction that the three main university campuses were hooked up to hear the governor's speech on Nov. 10. I think the university needs to take some lessons from the governor's press office. I realize Gov. Knowles has a much higher news

value than a regents meeting, but I still think his press office knows how to ensure adequate coverage for their boss and the same methods could be applied to the BOR.

I have spent 10 years managing political campaigns and similar methods are used to gain adequate coverage for candidates. These methods can be transferred to coverage for the regents. Sometimes the media needs to be enticed to cover an event, but there are still other inexpensive ways for the university to gain coverage and garner attention. Do the regents ever write "My Turn" columns for newspapers around

the state? Do they ever do public forums on public TV or radio stations? How about hosting public forums on the role of the Board of Regents and the university budget?

The Legislature each

year holds statewide meetings on the budget process, as well as in-depth hearings on specific topics, like subsistence, health care and education funding. I think the university system could do forums like this more often. During the heated debate about the capital move issue two years ago, John Lindback, the former information officer for UAS and now the chief of staff to the lieutenant governor, organized a forum on this issue. Public discussions and debates on topics like that are what the university should be doing—and doing more often—after all that is what a university is (or should be) all about.

The University of Alaska system is a public university, not a private university, and Alaskans, from Ketchikan to Kotzebue, have a right to offer their input about running our statewide university and they also have a right to know exactly how their money is spent. Many people may not realize that when the legislature allocates funds to the university each year during the budget process those funds go directly in one lump sum to the Board of Regents. It is technically the Board of Regents not the Legislature that decides how this money is spent. For all intents and purposes the BOR is our legislature. I think we (students, staff, faculty, etc.) should be doing a much better job of lobbying the regents on where, how and why these dollars are spent. (And yes, we also need to contact our legislators and ask them to quit cutting the university budget—but then I believe that is a no-brainer).

The legislature only sets the dollar amount on the university's budget, obviously with input from the governor and the regents. As noted in our lead story in this issue on page 1, Gov. Knowles has requested an additional \$3.5 million from the legislature for the UA budget. If this amount is added to the current budget that would mean the university would receive \$167.8 million for fiscal year 1998. It is up to the members of the BOR to disperse those monies as they see fit. This is why it is vitally important that more students, faculty and personnel be able to participate in the public process and attend regents meetings.

I was also surprised by the lack of coverage from the media. I did not see any story in the Anchorage Daily News on Friday about the Board of Regents meeting. I left town Friday evening for Juneau and did not see the Saturday paper. But I did contact a friend who works in the press office for the Republican majority (yes, I do have Republican friends) and he said that he did not see any stories about the regents meeting.

There were many student reporters from the three university student newspapers and

there was a radio reporter from the public station in Fairbanks, which is located on the UAF campus. When Gov. Knowles and Lt. Gov. Ulmer spoke to the regents on Thursday afternoon an Anchorage TV station covered their speeches. I may have missed other media representatives, but I was still surprised by the lack of interest from the major media representatives in the state.

Perhaps as the editor for the Whalesong this semester I am slightly biased, but I think not. I think this is an event that required more coverage by statewide media. I listened intently on Friday afternoon when Vice President for University Relations Wendy Redman, who is basically the head lobbyist for the university system, outlined her plans for a grassroots campaign to give higher visibility to the university system. Redman discussed her statewide approach to getting more support from Alaskans and current and former students and pushing those folks to talk with their legislators and asking for additional funding for the university budget. While I have the utmost respect for Redman and know that her job is a very difficult one, I think a first step toward getting more support for the university system is ensuring that statewide media cover the Board of Regents meetings more fully.

I believe these meetings are usually the most high profile the university gets and it is a time when all the key players are gathered in the same room. Bob Miller, director of Public Affairs for the statewide university system, was also in attendance during the meetings. Miller's position goes hand-in-hand with Redman's and he is the chief public relations officer for the university. Miller said that the major media in the state don't cover the meetings on a regular basis and it is something that he has tried hard to change, but with little luck. According to Miller, Melissa Eichholz-Moore, a reporter for The Northern Light, the student newspaper at UAA, often covers the BOR meetings as a stringer for the Associated Press (AP). Eichholz story on the recent regents meeting ran on the front cover of the Fairbanks News Miner on Saturday. The statewide press, like the News Miner, said they can't afford to send reporters to the meetings, Miller said, and they rely on the AP to cover these meetings for them.

Perhaps I have spent way too much time in the Alaska Legislature and have watched the reporters that cover the legislature year in and year out, so I am used to viewing the media frenzy during the 120-day session. I guess I was and still am surprised that there wasn't more coverage during the two-day hearings of the Board of Regents in Anchorage last week. I think the issues covered during those two days were just as important as many of the legislative issues.

I don't know if the media is to blame for their lack of interest or it is the university's fault. Perhaps a case could even be made that if the public and university students, faculty and personnel made more of a public outcry than the statewide newspapers, radio stations and TV outlets would cover the Board of Regents meetings more fully and adequately.

I kept wishing that Ralph Thomas, a former Anchorage Daily News reporter and my role model for a top-rate investigative reporter, would show up at the meeting as a freelancer for one of the statewide newspapers. Thomas resigned his position with the Daily News last year when his wife, Margaret Thomas, took a job with Gov. Knowles press office. I'm hoping that Thomas will take up his writing pen again soon and perhaps his first investigative story for the new year could be to do an in-depth piece on the Board of Regents. It certainly would give me something to be thankful for this week and it would make a wonderful Christmas present too.

## The Voluntary Circle

### Anything's possible at the Pioneer Home

By Ruth Danner  
Whalesong Columnist

For a good time call 780-6422 and check out the options at the Juneau Pioneers' Home (JPH). Really!

When I asked Carol Ende, JPH's Activity Director, what kind of things people could volunteer to do at the Pioneer Home, she said, "Anything's possible. It depends entirely on the volunteer. We try to match volunteers with activities that are of personal interest to them. Whatever your talents and interests, the secret to having a good time is doing what you enjoy."

If you're into visual arts, the residents love to host art shows. Children's art, shows by UAS art classes, photography, and displays by locals all add enjoyment and interest along with new perspectives. Maybe you're a performing artist, or wish you were? You don't need to be a particularly talented artist to find an appreciative audience here. Music of all kinds, storytelling, plays and skits, square dancing, line dancing, tap dancing, ballroom dancing; JPH welcomes the entire spectrum.

Amateur or professional, all are received with flair. This I know firsthand. At the beginning of the holiday season my Rotary club puts up the Christmas tree, brings presents, and sings Christmas carols. By today's musical standards we stink, but we mean well. The lucky ones have hearing aids that can be turned off. We share their holiday cookies and spiced cider, and they all seem to be smiling when we leave. I suppose performances like ours helps residents retain their appreciation for real talent. Juneau violinist Linda Rosenthal comes to play at the Pioneer Home every year and it's the event of the season, an elegant champagne concert to rival any on Linda's tour.

If you like to throw parties, you've come to the right place. Every weekend volunteers help decorate for Monday's theme party. Sometimes friends will come for a slumber party or a make-believe campfire. The beauty of the Pioneer Home is that whether you come every week or just once a year, they put your time to good use.

New volunteers bring fresh ideas and energy that help keep everyone's creative juices flowing. Rosie Slotnick, one volunteer I spoke with, started visiting the residents at JPH in her sophomore year in high school because she said, "I didn't have much to do and regular afterschool activities didn't have much appeal to me. My mom worked at the Pioneers' Home in Fairbanks and I guess she suggested it because I like to work with people." Rosie plays card games, tends houseplants, joins in on sing-a-longs, initiates the occasional game of balloon badminton. She enjoys art and has been called upon regularly to make posters. She said her skill at poster art has improved a lot.

There are lots of places you could fit into this picture. If you're into animals, there are birds that might be trainable. If you want to crank it up a notch from there, bring your own animals. Whether they do tricks or just like to snuggle, animals can do a lot to bring out smiles for everyone. Do you like to cook? There are volunteers who teach cooking classes where residents help prepare special meals. Sometimes it's tacos or pizza, but stir fry is by far the big favorite. If you're into aroma therapy, you'll recognize the side benefits of activities like this one.

"Our goal," said Carol, "is to make our home more like anybody else's home. It should be full of comings and goings by all kinds of people, the full range of ages, with all kinds of interests." From babies to old ladies, everybody can find something fun to do at JPH. If you like to play cards with your friends and find yourselves in need of a fourth hand for hearts, why not make plans to play at JPH? Young, energetic children make excellent visitors, too.

"A favorite activity for children and residents alike is bowling," Carol said in our interview. "Oh, I didn't realize you had a bowling alley," I said with some surprise. "We don't," she replied. "It's a bowling game. That's where the kids come in. The pins have to be manually put in place. The residents love it, but staff puts it away except when we have kids over. Employees just don't have time between their other duties to keep resetting the pins."

You never get too old to enjoy learning new things. Sometimes Friday Socials feature guest speakers. Almost

any topic works well, but favorites include travelogues, quilting displays, local history, and anthropology. Here's a great opportunity for extra credit for a public speaking class.

Notice that some activities are one-on-one, others involve a group, and still others let you do your own thing and fade into the woodwork. Some volunteers aren't ready to mingle and at JPH that's okay. Our culture seems to dread getting old, and for some the thought of visiting a bunch of aging strangers is pretty intimidating. Carol said "New volunteers sometimes need a little coaching to learn how to work with people with short and long-term memory loss. That seems to be the biggest challenge. Some people volunteer here as a way to help them understand aging in their own families. Once you get past that, it's amazing to see who's really giving and who receives."

"Volunteers get as much as they give," said Rosie. "One Thursday, it was the day after my birthday, they threw me a party with cake, balloons, presents, and a card that everybody signed. I've kept all the cards. There are Valentines and Easter cards. They have really made me feel loved in lots of ways, but I think that birthday party is the most special thing that has ever happened to me in my whole life."

If you're thinking about volunteering, think about the Juneau Pioneers' Home. Is it possible that you will come away the big winner in this type of relationship? "Anything's possible." What goes around comes around. This truism is usually invoked in terms of payback for bad behavior, but it works on the positive side as well.

The Voluntary Circle presents a forum where individuals can share their personal experiences in volunteerism. Some will tell how volunteers impacted them. Others will tell how volunteering changed their lives. Still others will tell about volunteering opportunities in our community. Your response and ideas are welcome. Contact Ruth Danner via email at [redanner@alaska.net](mailto:redanner@alaska.net).

## Viewpoint

### Senator brings legislature and university together

By Sen. Gary Wilkens

Support for education—K-12 through postsecondary—was my primary impetus for seeking legislative office. After many years of working at the local level, it seemed my commitment to educational quality and standards, fairness in educational funding, and in helping others see the crucial link between education and Alaska's strong economic and social future could best be realized in the legislative forum. My Fairbanks constituents supported this commitment, and elected me as a freshman senator in 1996.

My colleagues named me chairman of the Senate Health, Education and Social Service (HESS) Committee, where all education legislation is heard, as well as to the Senate Finance Subcommittee for the University of Alaska. This Finance Subcommittee is responsible for reviewing and making recommendations on the University of Alaska (UA) funding request. I have had the opportunity to hear representatives from the university make presentations on a variety of issues and initiatives, as well as listening to those being discussed and debated—with varying degrees of fact and fiction—by my fellow legislators.

During my initial months in the Legislature, I was very surprised at how little our lawmakers knew about the University of Alaska. While it is true that not all areas of the state have UA campuses, the general lack of understanding and awareness about the role of the University of Alaska in our state was, and continues to be, of great concern to me.

During the university budget hearings, it became clear that the complexities of the UA system and the challenges it faces with declining revenues are not issues that can adequately be addressed during the hectic 120 day legislative session. It also became clear that the single appropriation budget format used for the university does not allow legislators to "see" down to the program level as they do with state agencies. While this budget format provides the Regents the necessary latitude in allocating and reallocating resources based on their assessment of the state's needs, it generates a good deal of frustration to the

legislators who are unable to get a sense of what is happening within the University of Alaska.

After a discussion of these observations, Sen. Tim Kelly of Anchorage, Rep. Pete Kelly of Fairbanks, and I initiated a series of meetings during the interim between legislators and members of the Board of Regents (BOR) in an informal setting conducive to exchange

and dialogue. It is our belief that the more legislators know about the university programs and services, the more likely they are to become

supporters. The purpose of these meetings are twofold: to educate the legislators about the university and to educate the Regents about the issues and concerns heard by legislators from their constituents. Two meetings were held this summer with a third planned for Dec. 17 in Anchorage. The agendas have been infor-

mally geared toward encouraging more of a dialogue than a series of presentations. The participation has been higher than expected, with 35 legislators having participated in one or both of the meetings thus far.

At the first meeting, Mike Kelly, president of the Board of Regents and UA President Jerome Komisar outlined the current budget problems facing the university. They presented a fair assessment of the costs of higher education in Alaska—including the high costs associated with providing access to Alaskans in smaller communities. President Kelly discussed the Board's commitment to generating efficiencies through intercampus collaboration and consolidations, and outlined the Board's initiatives for internal review and cost analysis across all administrative and academic systems.

Legislators raised many issues, including concerns with the high administrative costs; the disparate funding levels between campuses; duplicated instructional programs; the number of small campuses around the state; and the ratio of research to instructors.

At the second meeting, presentations

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## Whalesong

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The Whalesong editorial staff assumes no responsibility for the content of material written by non-staff members. The views and opinions contained in this paper in no way represent the University of Alaska and reflect only those of the author(s). The editorial staff is solely responsible for content.

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# Tackling test anxiety takes time

By Lori Exferd  
UAS Academic Advisor

**Y**ou begin to feel nervous. Your heart starts to beat faster. Your palms feel sweaty. There's a sense of dread in the air, and a wave of nausea sweeps over you. No, you're not waiting for your blind date, you're waiting to take a test.

Test anxiety... we've all had it, and it affects us all in different ways. For some students, test anxiety is healthy. It gives them the boost of adrenaline that they need to concentrate. But for other students, test anxiety can be overwhelming and damaging. How do we get rid of it? We don't. Test anxiety is not something to get rid of. It's something we manage.

First, we have to understand test anxiety. Think of biology and the "fight or flight" reaction that we all learned about in grade school. When animals are confronted with a situation that makes them anxious, their bodies respond in one of two ways: run away or stay and fight. The same thing happens to us with tests. But instead of running or giving up on the test and berating ourselves for not passing, we need to stay and fight.

How do we do that? It all begins with two very simple practices: going to class, and paying attention. Students who keep up with their attendance and actively pay attention and participate in class keep up with the information and are better prepared when it comes time to study. Simple as that. Here are some additional tips for combating test anxiety prior to the exam day.

Map out a plan of study. Know what materials you will need to cover, and begin studying for them in advance. Use your notes and the text to create a study checklist of ideas, concepts, formulas, and definitions. Prepare flash cards with study information to take with you wherever you go. Avoid caffeine before the exam. It will only heighten your anxiety. Do not cram the night before. Cramming for an exam will leave you feeling irritated, confused and exhausted, and the ability to think clearly will be lost. The night before, prepare a review sheet that you read through, not quiz yourself from. This will reduce some of the last minute "panic" you may feel when your brain is fried and you can't remember the material.

Don't change your night before or morning routine prior to a test. Be sure you had a good night's sleep. Arrive for the test early, but do not quiz yourself on the way to the test or while you are waiting. Read through your review sheet again. Don't compare how long you studied with how long your classmates studied. This is silly. What works for you may not work for them.

Now it's time for the test. There are ways to begin and finish the test that are anxiety reducing. When you

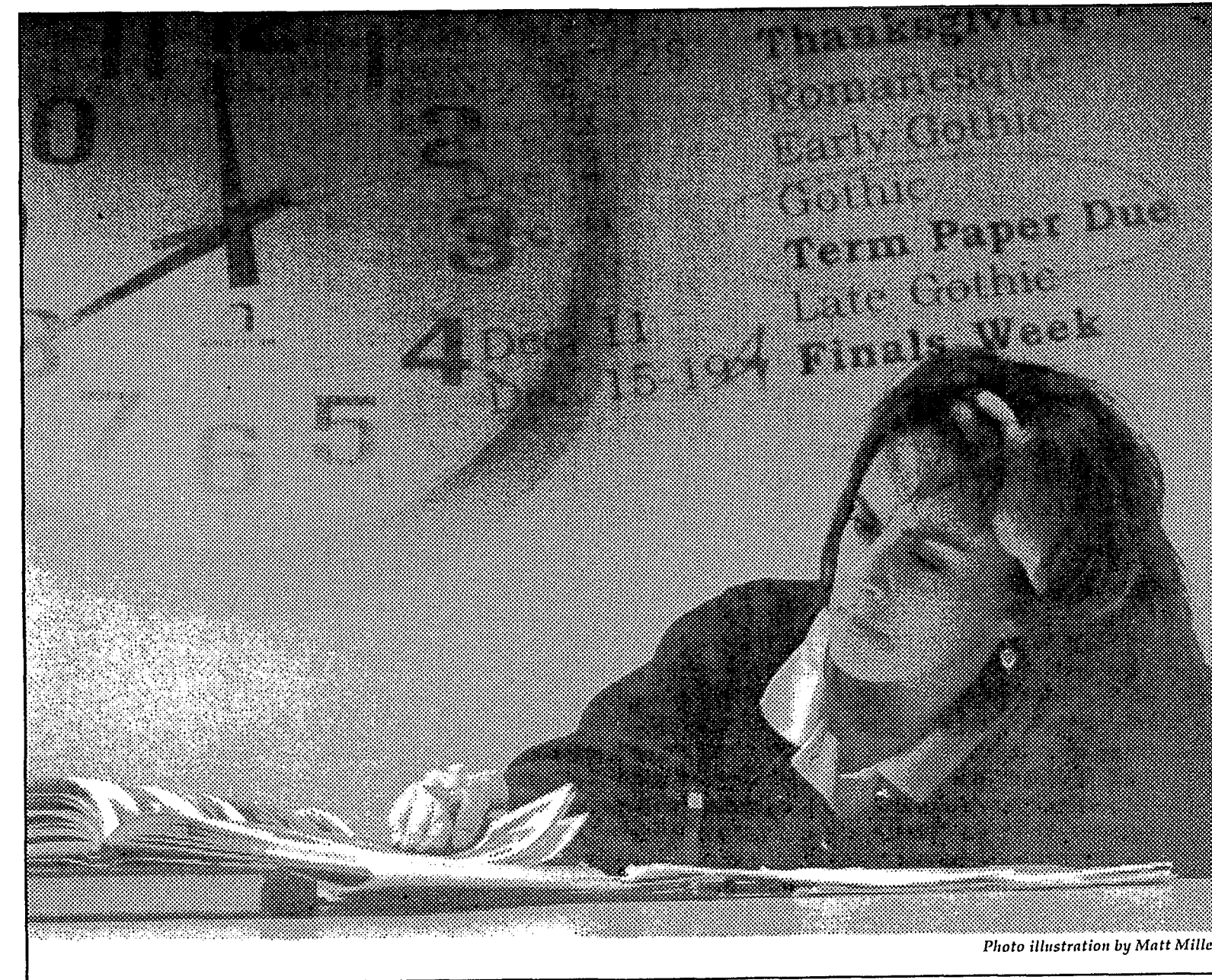


Photo illustration by Matt Miller

receive the test in your (sweaty) hands, take some time to breathe. Then read the directions very slowly and carefully. You may think you know what to do, but the directions may give you some important clues. Next, skim through the test. I once heard of an instructor who gave out a test with 100 questions. Question 100 said, "In order to pass this test, write your name on the front cover and turn in the exam without answering any of the questions." Almost all of the students failed.

While taking the test, budget your time. You don't always have to answer the questions in order, so skip around, and answer those you know first. This will give you more time to answer the tougher questions. Always try to answer every question, even if you're not sure of the answer. Instructors can't give credit for a blank sheet of paper, but partial or full credit may be awarded for effort. And last but not

least, leaving early is not recommended. Although this may impress your classmates, you will be giving up precious time that could be used for review and correction. How you deal with anxiety after the test is important too. Let it go. The test is over.

And until you see the score, you do not know how you did. Remember, a test score is only a measure of how you scored on a test. It does not measure your self-worth, it is not an indication of your ability to contribute to society, and it does not determine whether or not you'll be successful and happy in life. Keep things in perspective, and you'll find your anxiety will be your friend and not your enemy.

For more information on test taking and test anxiety, stop by the Student Resource Center in the Novatney Building.

## Global Connections: Your map to the world

By Elizabeth Schelle  
UAS Study Abroad Director

**T**his week's focus is on Alicia Nelson, a UAS sophomore studying at the University of Caen in France for this academic year through the International Student Exchange Program (ISEP). Alicia is finishing up an A.A. degree and may be working toward a law degree in the future. She was born and raised in Canada and went to a French immersion school for eight years. She went to high school at Juneau-Douglas High School (JDHS) and took French courses there. At the University of Caen she is able to study the French language as well as take courses of interest to her for her future educational goals. Here are some excerpts from her e-mail messages to date — all part of the adventure of adjusting to life in a different country!

"Sept. 29... I am doing good. I arrived safely in Paris and my mom and I spent a couple great days touring that wonderful city. We then headed to Frankfurt, Germany where we visited an aunt and uncle of mine and had a great time. After this wonderful week, we got to my dorm at the University of Caen and spent a night here. It was a semi-awful experience and there were some serious thoughts about just

hopping back on the plane and heading back to Juneau, but we went away for the weekend and visited some other areas of France and I did return and am giving it a try.

Europe, and especially this university, has made me realize how spoiled we are as Americans and it is quite hard to adjust to the changes over here. Europeans are not

as up-to-date as we are in hygiene and other areas, so I am learning to use a toilet without a toilet seat and share two showers with 20 other men and women. The showers and toilets are all in one area on each floor and there is only one toilet and the room is decorated nicely with mold and the last of the paint specks that were put there more than a hundred years ago when this building was last renovated. Anyway, as you can tell it is quite an interesting experience living here.

I have finished my first two weeks of my French courses which have also had a little culture shock to them. The teachers never show up earlier than 10 minutes AFTER the class was supposed to start, but if you as a student walked in late, wow the whole building would know!!!!!!

I am still trying to figure out my classes and everything that the ISEP program offers here, but you would be amazed at how unorganized this university is. The first day I arrived I spent an hour and a half trying to find out how to get to my room and I was eventually sent back to the first building I was in and they gave me my room without a problem. It is very frustrating for me when I waste my time with people who think it is a good joke to send the American everywhere!... I know it sounds like I am having a hellish time, which it often seems that

*... They found a bomb on campus from the war and so they were blowing it up since they were afraid to move it for fear it would go off then. This was quite interesting for me and a little FREAKY for me so I got as far away as I could!*

Continued on page 12

# Uplifting holiday musical premieres

## Perseverance Theatre's "King Island Christmas" is family fare

By Heather Montez  
Whalesong Reporter

**D**on't miss the world premiere of "King Island Christmas." The multi-generational cast combines some familiar and some new faces and entertains with a rousing choral interpretation of Jean Rogers' children's book.

The musical, winner of the Frederick Loewe Award, which salutes a promising new American musical, was written by former Juneauite Deborah Bailey Brevoort with music composed by David Friedman. The play is different than what usually attracts audiences to Perseverance Theatre, but from where I was sitting, it didn't seem to phase the audience one bit. The house was packed, and emotions were exhibited by the young and old alike.

The story begins with the King Islanders waiting for their priest to arrive on Christmas Eve. The village church has been dark since Father Carroll has been gone and the villagers are waiting for him to return to light the Christmas candles that start their Christmas celebration. The villagers fear that Christmas will not come because the boat carrying Father Carroll will be stranded, is soon realized when the boat North Star radios they are not able to come in to the island because of a storm. The sea is calm in the lee of the island, but this is on the other side of the mountain. The villagers decide they will work together and carry the oomiak over the mountain and retrieve Father Carroll.

Performed as an oratorio sung and narrated by the actors, the simple story is full of little life lessons throughout that seemed to tug at your heart strings, make you want to jump up and shout and rethink your life all at the same time. It portrays the simpleness of Christmas and looks at what is really important in life—love, friends, people working together, and sharing. It's easy to get caught up in



Photo by Matt Miller

The isolated residents of King Island succeed in getting their oomiak over the mountain in Perseverance Theatre's production of "King Island Christmas" that runs through December 21st.

the memorable musical tunes and I found myself singing, "Over the Mountain" and "On King Island, King Island" on the way home. At times the music had a folk style to it and other times it felt like you were in the middle of a spiritual revival or on a tropical island.

Watching entertainment like this makes me realize how lucky we are to have these talented people here in Juneau. Don't miss this family holiday affair.

Regular show times are Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays at

8 p.m., Sundays at 6 p.m. with the exception of the final Sunday performance which is Dec. 21 at 2 p.m. There will be two pay-as-you-can performances on Wednesday, Dec. 3 and Wednesday, Dec. 10 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available at Hearshide Books.

## Wilkins...

Continued from page 3

were given on research and rural education, as well as an update on the internal program reviews initiated by UA President Komisar. Research, particularly basic research, is a difficult issue for many legislators and much of the public to understand because the results seem so remote from our daily lives. UAF Provost Jack Keating gave a very informative presentation that resulted in a lively discussion and an enhanced understanding of the important role basic research plays in Alaska's development.

The agenda for the next meeting will include updates on the internal program reviews as well as discussion of issues, such as deferred maintenance, that will be significant issues during the coming legislative session.

Our university needs the strong support of the Legislature. That support will come from a Legislature that is educated not only about the general organization and operation of the university system, but also about the benefits derived from the university by the people of Alaska. No legislator wants to ham the University of Alaska. No one wants to manage it in place of the Board of Regents, but we do want to understand it.

From that understanding will come commitment; from the commitment will come support; from the support will come funding; and from that funding will come a world-class university system of which all Alaskans, including the Legislature, can be proud.

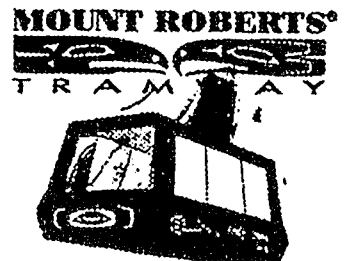
Sen. Wilkins is a Republican from Fairbanks. He represents District O, which includes the University of Alaska Fairbanks, in the Alaska State Legislature.

## University of Alaska Southeast STUDENT ART SHOW

Mt. Roberts Tramway, 490 South Franklin



"Come view new work by some of Alaska's most promising artists."



**Dec. 5th 4-8pm  
Dec. 6th 10am-6pm**



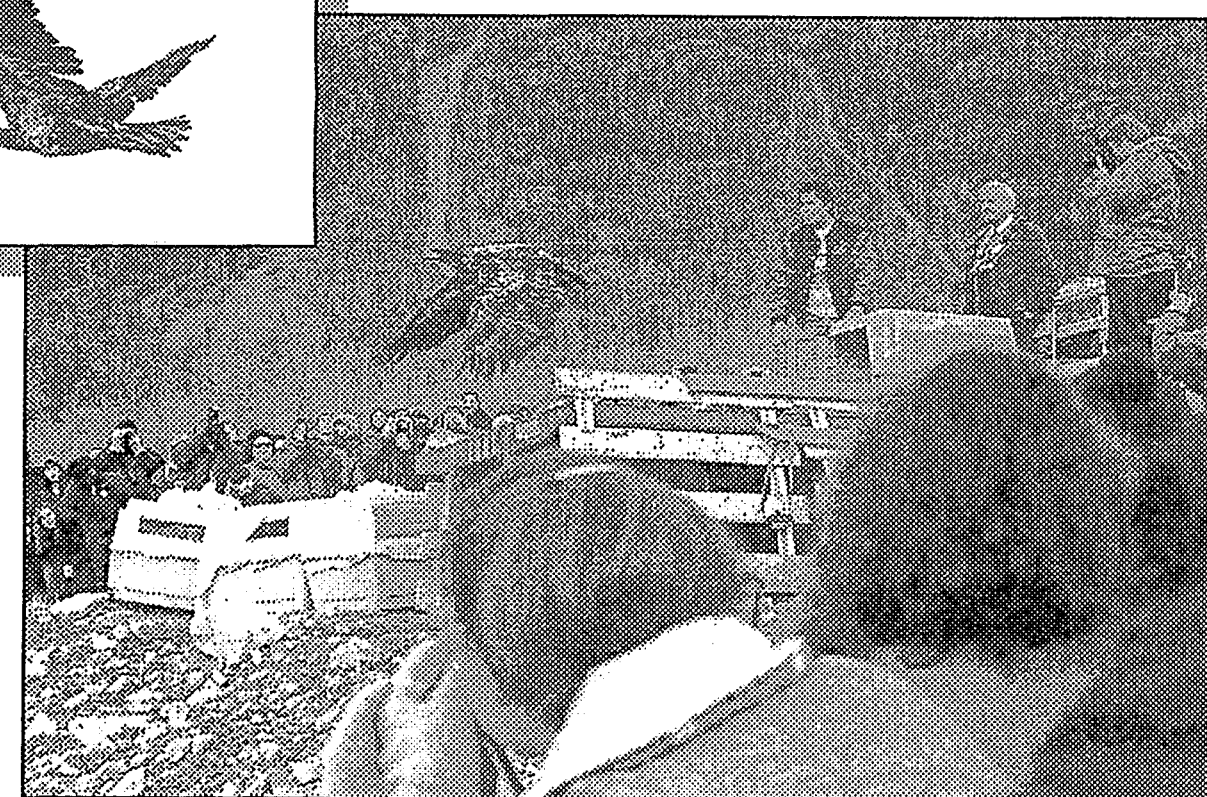
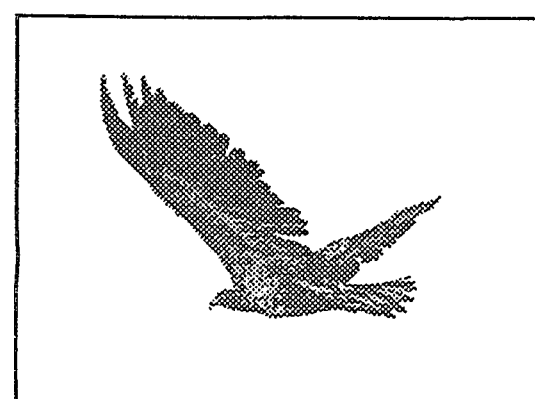


# Nature's Air show

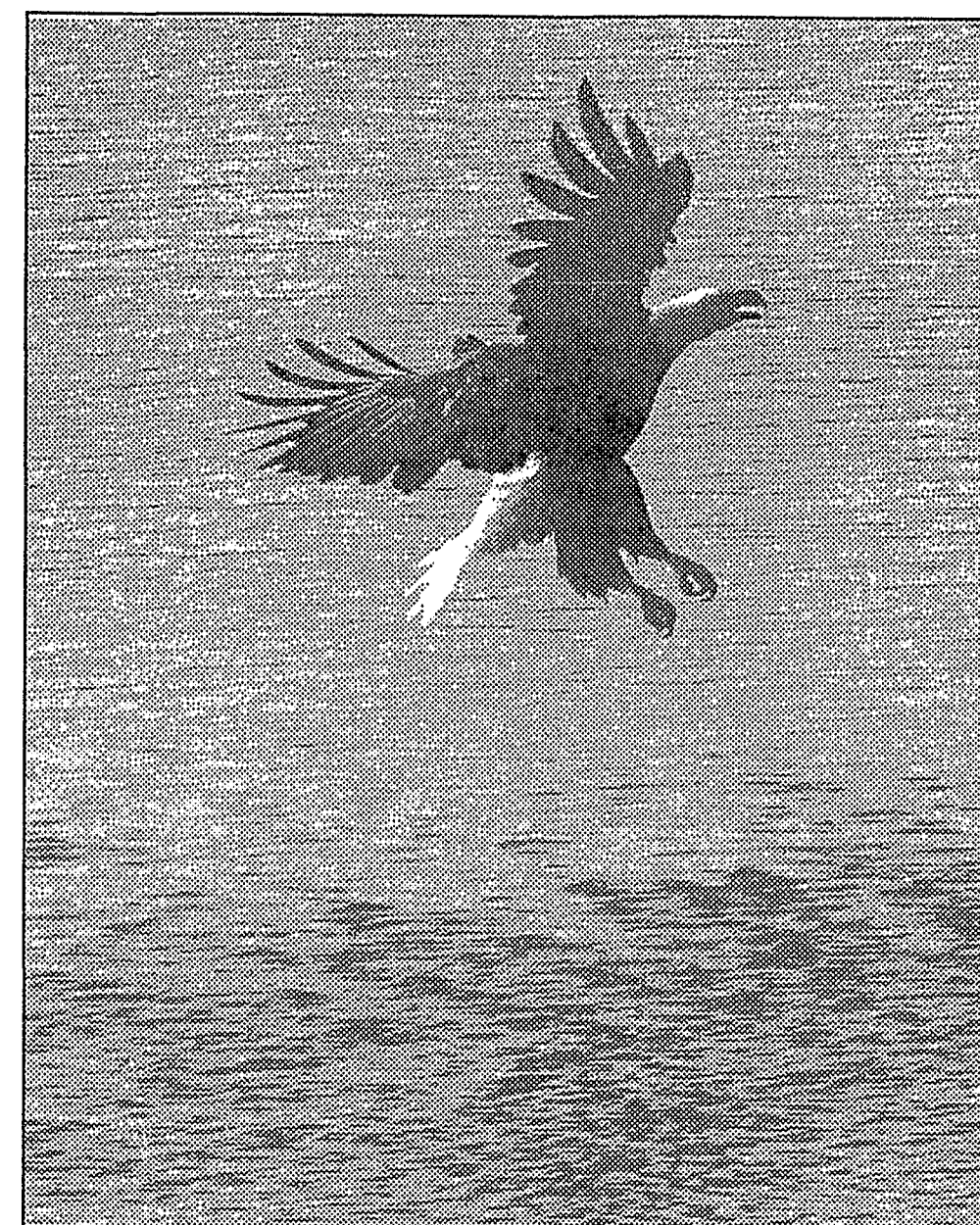
**Alaskan and Yukon students witness  
the fall congregation of Bald eagles**

Students from UAS were among those who observed this unique and awe-inspiring event that occurs every fall along the banks of the Chilkat River. Organized to coincide with the eagle's annual feeding event, the Alaska Bald Eagle Festival in Haines draws visitors from all over the country and around the world. This year's festival, held November 7-9, also featured unique opportunities to view eagles up close and talk with some of the American and Canadian biologists and veterinarians who have made this magnificent raptor their life's work.

**Free again**

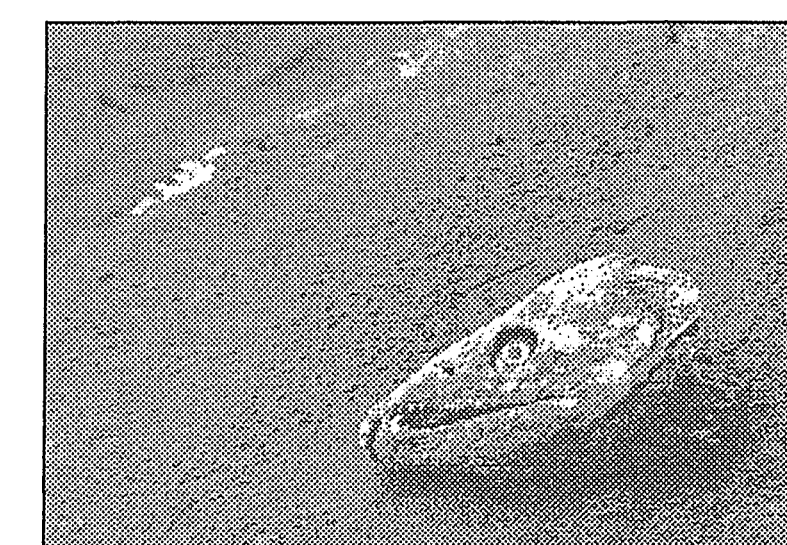


A rehabilitated juvenile eagle enjoys free flight once again as dozens of cameras click away. A total of five eagles, previously wounded and then nursed back to health, were released during the Festival. The Gai Sun Dancers, below, celebrate the occasion with a Tlingit eagle dance. Volta, a 10-year-old male that was permanently disabled after a run-in with a power line, eyes a potential meal at right. Since Volta can no longer return to the wild, he's permanently in the care of staff and volunteers at the Alaska Raptor Rehabilitation Center in Sitka.



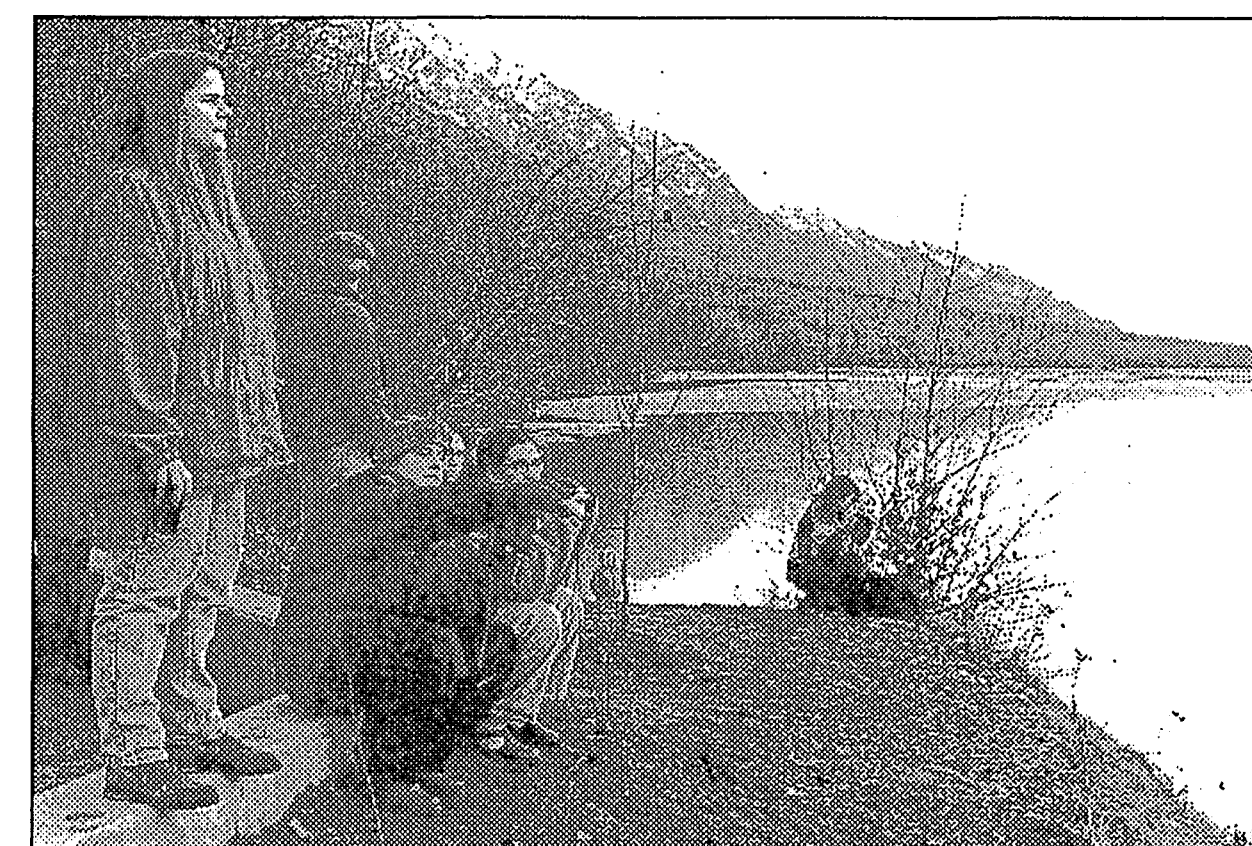
An eagle swoops across the river and later engages in a heated tete-a-tete with a buddy over lunch, above and right. At far right, the object of their desire, one of the thousands of the late season chum salmon that migrate up the Chilkat River each fall to spawn. This valley is perhaps the biggest eagle hotspot in the state -- if not in North America -- with as many as 3,284 eagles counted in December of 1993. Bill Zack, state parks ranger and manager of the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve, said they estimated more than 2,000 eagles during this year's Festival with still more migrating in. Most of the eagles spent the weekend spread out along the entire length of the lower river or on the opposite bank from spectators.

**Mine!**



Photographs and Text by Matt Miller

**Oh, look!**



Students watch as eagles swoop and dive all around them. Over 70 students from UAS and over a dozen students from Yukon College in Whitehorse traveled to Haines for the Festival. UAS students, both on and off campus, organized a weekend trip to Haines that was capped with a potluck dinner. A few of the students had assignments tied to the trip, but most went just for the fun of it. Dr. Dennis Russell, UAS biology professor, said it "was the best and most informative Eagle Festival ever," and he credits the latest trip's success and the increased participation to student organizers which included Collin Pilgren, Larry Tucker, Wendy Sydney, and Dawn Murphy.





## Adjunct faculty debate union membership

Votes to be counted Dec. 2

By Eileen Wagner  
Whalesong Reporter

Steve Levi is angry. He has been an adjunct instructor at the University of Alaska-Anchorage (UAA) for 24 years and he has not gotten a raise since 1980.

Levi is organizing a drive for union membership among an estimated 1,075 adjunct (part-time) instructors throughout the University of Alaska (UA) system. Ballots have been mailed to all the adjunct instructors around the state and they must vote by Dec. 2 on whether or not they support unionization.

University administrators are concerned that if the vote passes, it will ultimately mean that less classes will be offered as the cost of employing part-time faculty rises.

Adjuncts teach a maximum of 15 credits a year and are under contract to teach each course on an individual basis. They make about \$2,000-\$2,300 per course (versus \$5,000-\$6,000 for full-time faculty) and receive no benefits and no guarantee of continued employment. Levi said adjunct faculty are sometimes bumped from their positions by visiting faculty taking "working vacations."

"Teaching as an adjunct is a job," said Levi, "people maneuver their lives around it. I work at other jobs to be able to continue doing this." One of Levi's classes is a distance education class with an enrollment of 105. "The break-even point for the university is 13-14 students per class. The university is making big bucks off adjuncts like me who are grading 105 midterms and 105 final exams."

Mike Hostina, labor relations coordinator for the University of Alaska, said the university is opposed to the ballot initiative. The concern is that, if a union vote passes, the university would then be dealing with three academic unions, and if they have to pay adjuncts more, it will mean that they will cut back the number of classes offered, he said.

Hostina said the issue was raised about a year ago when the Alaska Labor Relations Agency was approached to certify a new bargaining unit, the adjuncts. The university was concerned that the adjuncts represented too broad a group to be lumped together into one bargaining unit.

"These people are part-time instructors for a variety of reasons," said Hostina. "A small number want to be hired on to tenure track positions, but most are professionals in one field or another who like

teaching, or who like to provide a service to the community."

Most adjunct faculty do not need or want higher pay or benefits because they already are covered by another job, Hostina said. He added that there is a group of 200 or more adjunct faculty, mostly in the Anchorage area, who want to be hired on as regular faculty. It is from this group, the United Academic Adjuncts, that the push for unionization is coming.

Hostina said that one of the university's main concerns with this vote is the fact that it will be decided by a majority vote of the adjuncts who take the time to vote. Many adjuncts, thinking that benefits and unionization don't pertain to them, may neglect to vote, he said, and not realize the implications for the university. Hostina added, "It will become more expensive to have classes taught by adjuncts. Benefits cost us about \$400 a month per faculty member. The net result is that the university will not be able to offer as many classes."

Adjunct spokesman Levi said that a survey was sent out to all adjuncts to ask what their main concerns were. A quarter of the surveys were returned, and most of them named wage increases, health insurance, and continuity of employment as their major concerns. Levi said that if the vote passes, the first thing the new union will do is develop a statewide board of directors to pursue their claim.

## New education tax credits cut college costs

By Eileen Wagner  
Whalesong Reporter

The new HOPE Scholarship and Lifetime Learning tax credit included in the Tax Relief Act of 1997 promises to make an education at UAS an even better bargain next year than it has been in the past. The new incentives may also boost enrollments among both younger and returning students.

The HOPE Scholarship provides up to \$1,500 tax credit for tuition and required fees beginning in the tax year 1998. Students must be enrolled at least half-time, and the credit applies to only the first two years of instruction. The credit is for 100 percent of the first \$1,000 paid and 50 percent of the second \$1,000 paid. It does not apply to housing, food, or books.

The credit may be used by the person claiming the student as a dependent on their tax return (usually parents.) A parent with two children attending college can claim a tax credit of up to \$3,000. The credit is phased out for taxpayers with adjusted gross incomes of \$40,000 to \$50,000 for single filers, and \$80,000 to \$100,000 for joint filers.

Barbara Burnett of the UAS Financial Aid Office points out that this credit would completely cover tuition for a local student to attend UAS. Resident tuition for a full load of undergraduate classes is \$852.

The effective date of the HOPE Scholarship is December 31, 1997, and this is important to note: any tuition paid before this date, even if it is for classes beginning next year, is not eligible for the tax credit. Be sure to pay your tuition after the effective date to ensure eligibility. Burnett cautions students about pre-paying tuition this year, if they wish to apply for the tax credit. (However, in future years, payments made in the calendar year before enrollment will apply to the credit for that year, as long as the class begins by March 31.)

There is a second tax credit available to students as well. The new Lifetime Learning tax credit is available to undergraduate students, graduate students, and adults going back to college. It is a tax credit worth up to 20% of the first \$5,000 of tuition and fees through the year 2002, and up to 20%

of the first \$10,000 thereafter. A student may attend less than half-time, half-time, or full-time, and receive the credit.

The credit is available for college enrollment after July 1, 1998. It is phased out at the same income levels as the HOPE Scholarship. The Lifetime Learning credit cannot be claimed in addition to the HOPE Scholarship, but a family may claim the Lifetime Learning credit for family members not claimed under the HOPE Scholarship.

The Clinton administration has made the HOPE

Scholarship the centerpiece of its 1997 education/tax-cut package, vowing to make the first two years of college the new standard for U.S. students. The measures are aimed at making college education affordable to the majority of low- and middle-income citizens. When fully phased in, 12.9 million students are expected to benefit.

Burnett suggests that interested students look at the following two web sites for more information: [www.aacc.nche.edu](http://www.aacc.nche.edu) and [www.ed.gov/budget/9719tax.html](http://www.ed.gov/budget/9719tax.html).

### Where's Waldo (the Eagle)?

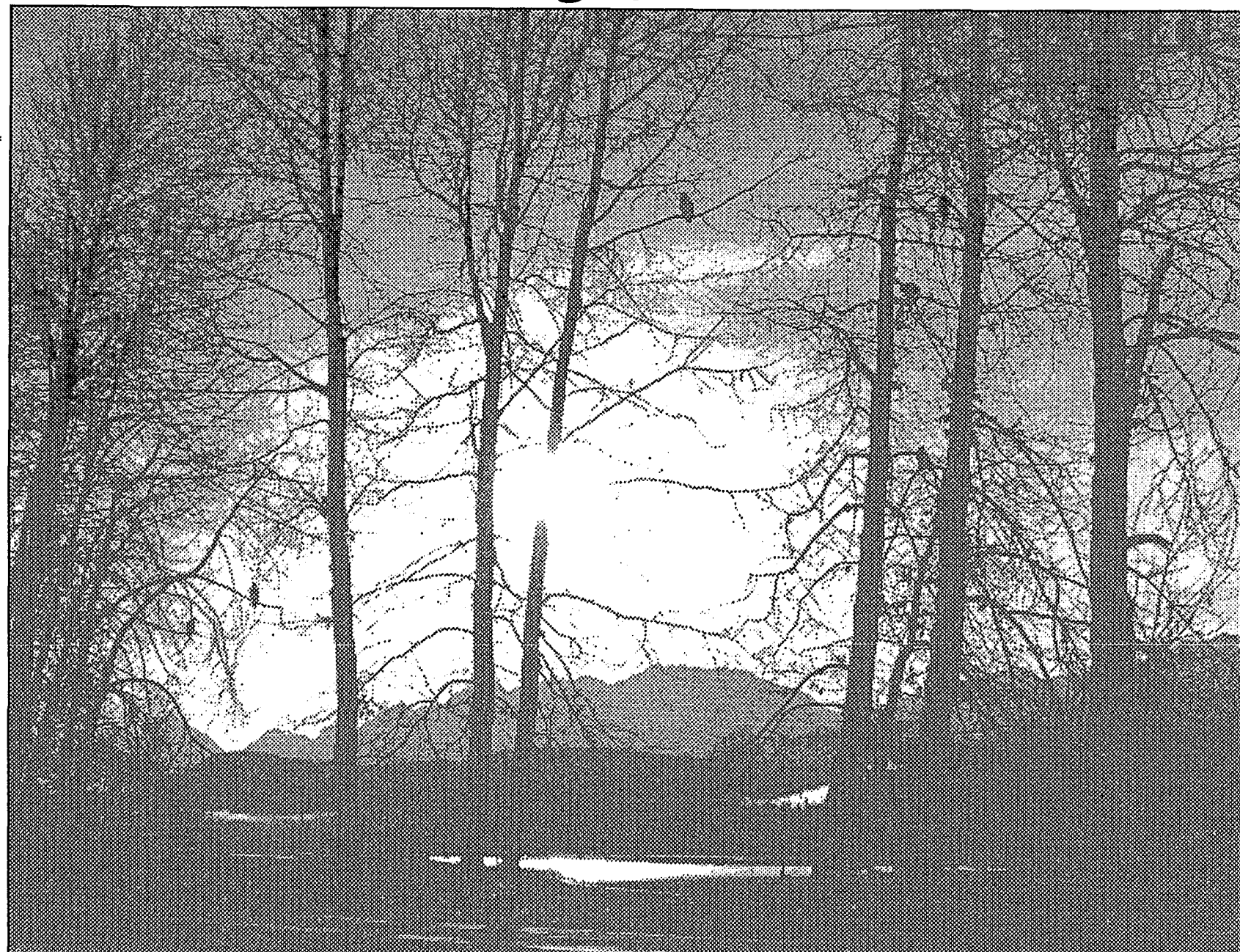


Photo by Matt Miller

There are at least eight eagles and one human in this picture. Can you find them? This picture was taken during a recent morning on the banks of the Chilkat River near Haines where thousands of eagles congregate each fall to feed on the winter chum run (See related story on pages 6 & 7).

## Russell...

Continued from page 1

and Wetlands Plants.

Besides teaching, Russell is involved in other scientific endeavors that keep him very busy. One of these is his involvement in sea turtle research being done in Hawaii. His involvement began while he was there in 1976. George Balazs, another graduated student at the time, was doing research on the endangered species and asked Russell if he would be willing to help him identify algae samples taken out of the sea turtles' stomachs. Balazs had a grant and was willing to pay a small price so Russell took him up on the offer. The research has continued since then, and so has Russell's involvement. "Every so often I get a package in the mail from Hawaii with a new set of samples," said Russell. The research team is hoping to find the cause of fibrous tumors that have been forming on the sea turtles. They are looking at what makes the turtles susceptible to the virus that causes the tumors and the scientists are sure it's connected to what the turtles eat. This makes Dr. Russell's part really important. Dr. Russell said that the tumors are not killing off the sea turtles but it can be life threatening to them. "I think there is going to be a breakthrough in the next month or so but it's bad luck to talk about it."

Russell is actually one of the only people in the world who has the knowledge to identify seaweed and other edibles from green sea turtle samples. George Balazs brought this to Russell's attention and has offered him an advance to write a manual that will contain Russell's knowledge and experience. The manual will assist other scientists in identifying the samples if Russell ever decides to retire. Russell traveled to Hawaii this summer to discuss the book and has begun the process. "I hope to have 25 species done by the first of January and 100 species by the end of next year," Russell said. "I want to take it up to 200 species before I'm done and then eventually expand the book

to include other species from Florida, Taiwan and other areas."

It was also at the University of Hawaii that Russell became interested in the Chinese culture and language. "I was a graduate student, teaching assistant, managed an apartment complex and was a salesman for a Chinese jeweler all at the same time." He became good friends with the jeweler Puichan, learned some of the language and has wanted to pursue it ever since. Russell presented a paper on some of his sea turtle findings in Beijing, China in 1995, and met a fellow who said he could stay with him if he ever decides to come back. Russell would love to teach in China, to study the language and see what they are doing in marine biology and farming. "There are thousands of miles of coast lines thick with sea farms. They raise everything," Russell said. His tentative plan is to go to China in the summer of 1999 and then take a sabbatical for half a year or a full year if funding will permit. Russell and his wife Chris have already taken a year of Chinese class and speak it to each other at home.

The other half of Russell's "spare" time goes towards eagles. He became interested in eagles his first year in Juneau. During the July 1994 opening of The American Bald Eagle Foundation Center, Chancellor Marshall Lind brought Russell to Haines and introduced him to the scientists that were involved with the Center. Russell became well acquainted with them and was asked to serve on the board of directors of the Foundation. "The directors want the University of Alaska Southeast to be the number one focal point for research, said Russell.

Last year during the November board meeting at the eagle festival, he was asked to be the director of the new Jay Hammond Research Institute which is located here in Juneau. "I said 'Okay, I'll do the best I can. I'm not a bird man; I'm a marine biologist,'" said Russell. "But when an opportunity comes up you need to be brave enough to say 'Yes, I'll try.' Go in there and try your best. You've got to be able to be flexible." Now that the Institute is established, plans have begun to build a two story building here in Juneau. The Jay Hammond Research Institute will be a branch of the American Bald Eagle Foundation, and will include a raptor center, field research offices, and

educational components that UAS students and teachers will be able to use.

"The institute is coming because the university is here. The university is so very important, plus we have a very large number of scientists in Juneau and all of these people can be involved in this institute one way or the other." Russell said the board hopes that in the future scientists from all around the United States and the world will want to come to the institute to study.

This institute already has wide support from the scientists and businesses in Juneau. "I believe this institute will have enough money to start building in two years." The city of Juneau is behind it and have come up with six areas where it can be built and they will donate the property. Some of the property is right next door to campus. "It will be coming soon, I'm really confident of that."

Right now in Haines they are putting up the walls for an addition to the current center. The upper floor of the new edition is being built specifically for UAS students. Russell said the facility will have a place for six to eight students to bunk, a small kitchenette, a place for two faculty members, and a lab for research. "The walls are going up right now. Next time we go to Haines, students will have a place to bunk, eat, and do research in the Chilkat Valley, said Russell.

Russell just returned from the Haines eagle festival and said, "We had no fewer than 60 UAS student up there and probably 10 that came on their own."

It's evident that Russell has a love for his teaching and for his students. "I don't see students as someone I've got to teach. I see it as developing their lives. If there is anything I want to do more, it's to show them how exciting life can be. When they go out into nature I want the whole world to come alive for them," Russell said. "I see students as the most valuable part of my life. If there is any eternity after death it will be through what I've contributed to their lives, that will be my eternal life. My continuous dotted line after I'm gone will be in their lives, what they do and their influence on others."

Russell completed his perfect Juneau package last December when he married UAS student and former Hawaiian, Chris Wyatt. He said he recognized Chris as a Hawaiian girl right away. "She walks and talks and acts like a Hawaiian girl. They're special. You can definitely spot an island girl."

### Mental Health Services at UAS To Be or Not to Be

By Crystal Huskey  
Whalesong Reporter

At the beginning of the semester, the Student Senate was considering passing a bill that would allocate \$5,000 to help student services fund mental health counseling at UAS.

The Mental Health Service, previously run by Juneau Mental Health employee Karen Forrest, was cut from this year's budget. Bruce Gifford, regional director of student services, was approached by Student Senate Vice President Venetia Caruso about having student government help fund the services. "This is the first time I've ever had a group come by and say, hey we think this is important and were even going to consider paying for it," said Gifford. Caruso presented the bill, which was for a contract not with the university, but with Juneau Mental Health, to the Student Senate in September. At that time, the bill was defeated.

Senator Autumn Lowrey once again presented the bill in October. At this time, several students started to raise concerns about this issue. Kelli Wood, a senior studying liberal arts at UAS and a former student senator, encouraged the student senate to take this issue to the students by conducting a survey.

According to the survey, the \$5,000 would be used to have a counselor on campus for a total of 15 hours a week- ten hours for individual sessions and five hours for group sessions. Last semester, a total of 64 students used the mental

health services.

During the Nov. 7 Student Senate meeting, Gifford informed the senate that he was working on a way to fund the service without the help of the Student Senate. "I don't want to ask students for the money," said Gifford. "If we worked on getting eight to ten hours a week, I would not be coming to you for money, it would be funded out of student service's budget," he added.

Gifford also informed the Student Senate that the services would not start until next semester. According to Gifford, if the proposal with mental health services doesn't work out then he may consider trying to get a contract with one of the local school district's psychologists. "Were going to have this [mental health services] one way or another," said Gifford.

These actions by Gifford led the Student Senate to table the bill indefinitely. Senator Wonder Russell said, "I don't think student government should fund this bill because I don't see an overwhelming need for this service. By putting out the student survey, we have shown interest in student's needs and I think that has shown the university what the student wants. I think that Bruce has really helped us out by going out of his way to look for other alternatives."

Vice President Caruso stated, "I think we did what we set out to do. I think we made it known to the administration that there's a need right now for this service. We stood up and let the student's voice be heard."

## Do you have plans for Thanksgiving?



UAS Outdoor Activities is sponsoring a road trip from Skagway to Atlin. Activities include cross country skiing, hiking, sightseeing.

Departure: Wed., Nov. 26  
Return: Sun., Nov. 30.

Space is very limited so sign up ASAP with Student Activities.

Questions?  
Call the UAS Student Activities Office for more information:  
465-6528.



## Media Services fast-forwards into the 21st Century

By Eileen Wagner  
Whalesong Reporter

It's handy to have a low-tech tape recorder on when talking to Susan Warner of the University of Alaska Southeast's Media Services. Words that probably didn't even exist five years ago keep popping out of her mouth. She talks fast - she has to - and you can't resist being caught up in the excitement of life on the fast track of technology.

The most remarkable thing about Warner and her associates Jim Gage, Gloria Merry, and student assistant Arlo Midgett is that they have brought four new technologies into being just this fall. The old analog satellites were converted to a new digital satellite system last summer, and 15 sites were brought up for distance education. Polis, a new web-based class management system, and Caucus, a web-based computer conferencing tool, have come on line as well. And, as if this isn't enough, a scanning and CD-ROM station has been set up where students can make their own CD-ROMs.

"I'm in a continuous state of having to educate myself on how to use these kinds of tools," said Warner. "I subscribe to about 30 trade magazines a month, my little window on these technologies. Our job is to stay current. I read all the time. I never do only one thing at a time. Besides, I think it's fun. I wouldn't be doing it if I didn't think it was fun."

Warner said Media Services does four or five main things: they help support distance education, train people in media technologies, help support conferencing (audio, video, and two-way video), and perform the traditional A-V role of circulating slide projectors, maintaining all the equipment on campus, and teaching students to shoot and edit video.

The first of Media Services' functions is the support of distance education. "Distance education is just exploding," said Warner. "As the web is becoming more distributed, everyone is looking at how we can have a presence there and serve Alaskans through technology. Clinton's mandate that all schools be connected to the web is forcing the deployment of this connectivity out, further down the capillaries. It's a great opportunity to offer education at distant sites."

One of the principal clients of the distance education program is the group of military bases in Alaska, which includes Eielson Air Force Base, Ft. Wainwright and Ft. Greeley. UAS provides the bases with two classes per semester, three semesters per year, in two specific areas - a two-year master's program in public administration, and a four-year bachelor's in business administration. Other remote sites with UAS students enrolled are Bethel, Nome, Kodiak, Homer, and several Southeast sites. This fall, Juneau, Sitka, and Ketchikan have student enrollments totaling 2,868 credit hours.

Warner said that although UAS faculty teach the classes, and UAS gets the tuition, distance education is not as lucrative as it might seem. "Distance ed is expensive. There are a lot of hidden costs. We have to pay for the satellite transponder time, for studio production capabilities, for staff with expertise," she said.

The technical support Media Services provides takes many forms. The most mature of the technologies is the satellite system, developed in the 1940's, which is a one-way video and two-way audio, with real-time interactivity. Current thinking is that interactivity is the essence of the student-faculty relationship, and Warner and her group have developed two new ways to increase interaction.

Polis is a web-based tool with which faculty can post assignments, reading lists, and links to other suggested materials. Caucus is a web-based computer conferencing tool. Students may communicate with other students or with faculty, and respond to questions.

"We have to coach the faculty," said Warner. "How do you invite students to participate? What will you do in the classic lecture style? What do you want to do that's going to have a rich experiential factor? Is this technology a tool that would work in your class? They have to make the migration from traditional sage on the stage to methodologies that work better with distributed learning techniques."

Students are putting pressure on faculty to do more with technology. The Teaching and Learning Technology Roundtable (TLTRT) is a group of faculty, staff, students and administrators who work to help faculty and students - but mostly faculty - adopt technology in the classroom.

One faculty member who is very enthusiastic about using technology is Robert Sewell. In his Psychology

101, a large lecture class of 90 students, he said, "I do a fair amount of lecture. The use of Power Point is a very effective way to accent the presentation. Once we start using it students actually take more notes. People just rivet on it. The images are astoundingly clear and grab students' attention. I am very impressed with the power of it. I'd recommend it to anyone who does content or survey classes where lecture is a big part of it."

The most interactive of the technologies that Media Services offers is video teleconferencing, in which both audio and video are two-way. The Fisheries program uses it extensively, but it has limited use now because it requires dedicated, and very expensive, telephone lines. Right now only urban areas in Alaska have enough telecommunication connectivity to be able to attach the terminal equipment.

However, Warner said, "Business is absolutely driving the evolution of video-conferencing technology. It's a great way to improve meetings, it's a great savings of money and time. Education is just saying 'we can use that, too!'"

In a former life, Warner was a musician ("I played anything with strings.") She trained as an electronic technician, originally as a way of coping with recording equipment at the Alaska Folk Festival. "When the university hired me in 1985, a one-piece camcorder had been invented but the university didn't own it yet, so everything you're seeing has happened over the last decade. I was hired to circulate 16 mm films 12 years ago."

After purchasing those first camcorders, Warner said that UAS used video mostly to record public speaking or performance classes. In 1990, they moved to the Egan Library, and Warner designed the first studio. They converted it to a four-camera satellite origination studio in 1991 - this was the beginning of a serious commitment to distance education. The following year, the video toaster system was purchased, which allowed more video

*"We can see the possibilities as applied to teaching and learning and it's a wide-open vista. People can do anything they can imagine. What a great time!"*

production capabilities.

Warner pointed out that all the media equipment had been bought with the proceeds from educational products created right there, or with grant money. The newest technology is the scanning and digitizing station where students can create their own CD-ROMs. "Having removable media allows students to work on graphic information files or very large data files, and then take it off, not leave it on for the next user. We're moving in the direction of desk-top technologies using removable media as well as connectivity to the web."

Warner also talked about the Smart Classroom Initiative. Under grant funding they have obtained from the University of Alaska President's Office, Media Services is looking at ways to support faculty members' ability to integrate the new tools more and more into the regular classroom and the distance ed classroom.

"We've defined five levels of how smart a class-



Photo by Matt Miller  
The full-time crew who work at the Media Services Center include, from left, Producer Gloria Merry, Director Susan Warner, and Media Specialist John Gage.

room can be," said Warner.

1. The basic classroom has at least a chalkboard, overhead projector, TV, and VCR.
2. A faculty member brings a laptop and a portable data video projector to project data and use other computer-based tools in class.
3. Adding the "smart cart" portable multi-media center that has already been checked out 45 times in the first 8 weeks of school.
4. A fixed multi-media facility - the actual smart classroom: this will be in the library, room 105, hopefully by spring if renovations are complete. It will feature an in-room sound system and "anything you can do on a computer".
5. The studio facility for originating on-line programming which already is located in Media Services.

Listening to Susan Warner talk about Media Services puts you on the cutting edge of thinking on both technology and education. "We are the most pro-technology outfit on campus. We can see the possibilities as applied to teaching and learning and it's a wide-open vista. People can do anything they can imagine. What a great time! Nobody knew how fast the web was going to go. One of the main things that's driving changes is the deployment of the web. It's changing not just how you can deliver programming, but how those activities are conducted. For instance, there's a lot of discussion about how meaning doesn't transfer with information, but is constructed by the learner," she said. "When you connect peers in a network, and get away from the direct broadcast model, when everyone is a peer and participating equally, you get group construction of knowledge, and that's quite a different thing. All these technologies and applications are in their infancy - we're just making this up as we go along! And so it's up to us to figure out the ways that take advantage of the new technologies. How does this improve learning? How does it improve the experience for the student? That's the challenge, and there are endless possibilities. What a great time!"

## Inside Madame Meng's Crystal Ball

**Astrology for the weeks of Nov. 22-Dec. 5**

By The Dream Dragon

**Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)**

The week of Nov. 23 sets the stage for intense soul searching. You are actually moved by thoughts about family and home, and your longing pushes you into new levels and new beginnings around the New Moon in Sagittarius on the 29th-30th. You must express yourself. This is what this transit is all about. You may have been attracting bad partners, but it's time to break that habit. This birthday will bring astonishing changes.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**

Domestic connections, love and enlightenment, at least about your current situations, are the beasts that you wrestle with in this period of hyperactivity. Be careful of burnout, but know that life really is turning in your direction. Forgive those around you, and try not to fall into that judgmental role. If others aren't working as hard as you, it really doesn't matter. Everyone admires a Capricorn, so cheer up, your time is approaching.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)**

The final week in November is one of those turning points in your life and may require major decisions. If you have offended someone, this is the time to make up (yes, it may have been your fault). You can now work with groups and repair old damages, even with family. It is your Cosmic Awareness time of year. Listen up! Those voices are not your imagination.

**Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20)**

This holiday week (whether you choose to participate in it or not) throws you into closer ties with a mate or best friend, which makes you feel more secure in home and family. However, the New Moon is in your career house, and one eye is seriously on your next career move. This is not a terribly surprising dichotomy for that oh-so-moving Pisces. You have always been able to predict the future for others, now it is time to predict, and create, your own.

**Aries (March 21-April 20)**

The New Moon is joining Pluto, a most powerful combination, which sends you toward travel, and fulfilling education goals at whatever cost. Romantic interludes can be especially intense and deep at this time. This is because you are learning some skills in compromise. This is an enormous step for an Aries. You are working awfully hard and others are leaning on you, but you may learn to like this. It is a blessing, not a burden, and you start seeing adventure in life.

**Taurus (April 21-May 20)**

There is a dynamic Sun/Sagittarius, Pluto/Venus and Mars thing happening, and you are the monkey caught in the middle. If you feel that you are encountering situations from long ago, (deja vu with an especially disgusting rustic turn) it may be time to deal with some particularly unappealing issues. Cut some apron strings with the past, decide what you want, and move toward it. You may have been denying your talents in order to please others. You really do have talent, start to express it again, and the world will open for you.

**Gemini (May 21 - June 20)**

This is a very serious and deep time for you in the relationship department. It is almost as if you are going through divorces and marriages on many levels, and with every relationship that is important to you. You really need to avoid gossip, and in general you need to avoid revealing yourself to untrustworthy individuals. Keep those innermost thoughts to the inner. You may be in store for many kinds of changes, so brace yourself, you need to be on top of things.

**Cancer (June 21 - July 22)**

You try so hard to be there for everyone who needs you. The next few weeks show a lot of strain in your field of management. It seems you can never get enough done for everyone. Beware, like your other watery companion (Pisces) you may only think everyone needs your attention. If you feel that people are putting a strain on your personal time, just don't do it. It is never easy, but it certainly is simple. This can be a warm fuzzy romantic time for you. Just enjoy every moment.

**Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22)**

This is a great time to end any long-distance relationships that you may have been nurturing. It is a practical Mars-in-Capricorn thing. This may just be someone you have had a fling with and it is a great time to let it go. Staying closer to home is not so exciting, but it suits you much better. Avoid pointless arguments with co-workers and family, especially those religious, political things. You always think you're right anyway, so why elicit any other opinion?

**Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)**

Venus is conjunct Mars in Capricorn, this means that you are probably disturbed by your love life and your relationships at work. You think others around you have ulterior motives, but could it be that you are the one who actually is never very direct? If you have a complaint, do you really express it to the other person? No, it's just not nice. Well, this tendency to be such a nice guy backfires and you begin to feel insecure. Let it go. Enjoy the holiday and be grateful that anyone can relax around you!

**Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**

There is a thing at the end of this month where the sun enters Sag, conjoining Pluto, and plenty of other noteworthy planetary configurations which create an atmosphere for you to finally discuss those messy things that you have been avoiding. If you are not happy at work this is the time to let it be known and find a way to move on. You may have outgrown whatever position you are in. The same goes for friendships and romance. Wouldn't you rather go for a walk alone?

**Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 22)**

This birthday seems to have you spinning and trying to balance the pressures of work and your personal schedule. You may have to deal with people who are less stable than you (and less responsible!) which can be very frustrating. However, you know what you want, you know that your goals are very serious and delightful. Just have patience, the rest of the world really is at your fingertips.

## Students are taking a stab at fencing

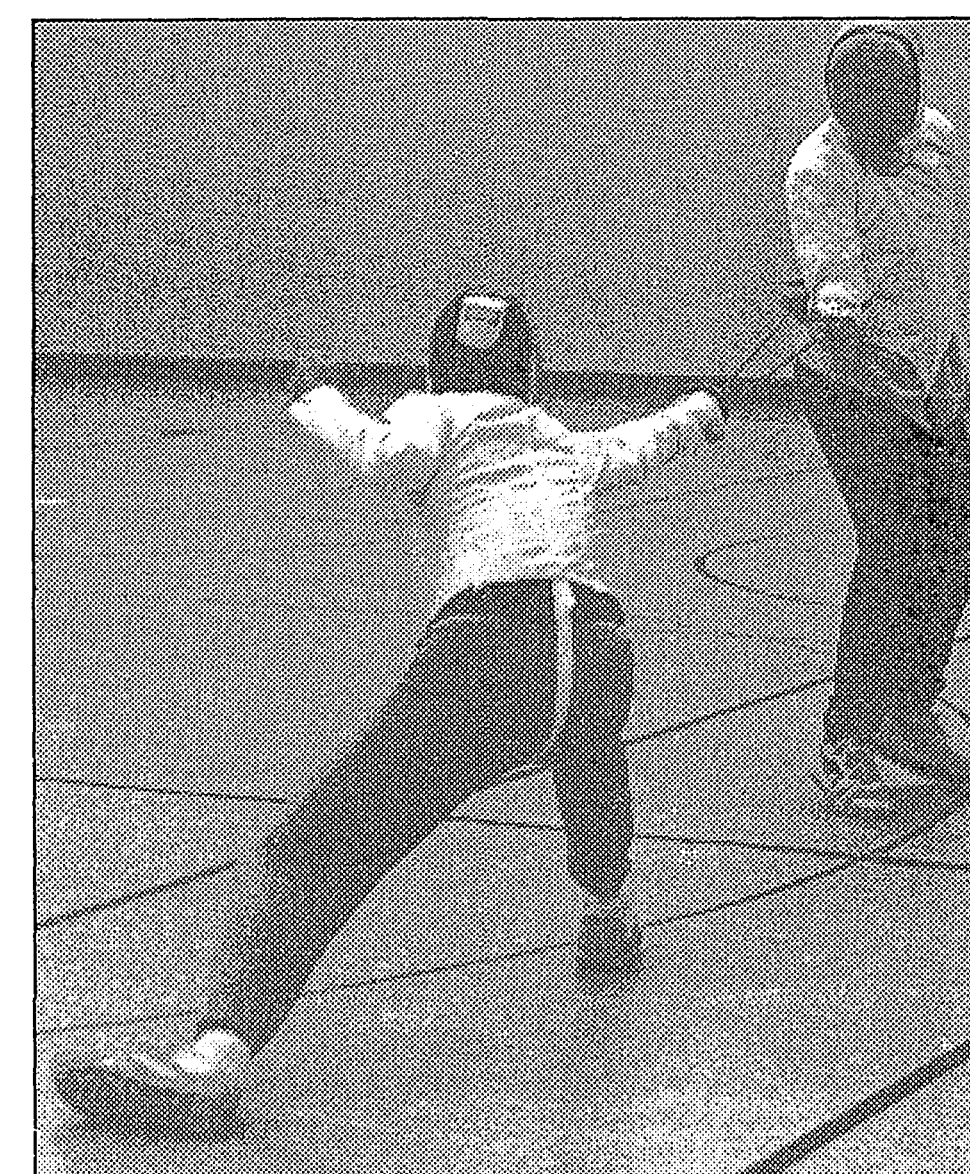


Photo by Matt Miller  
Liberal arts major Thane Brown (right) stays light on his feet and uses quick handwork to deflect the attack of MBA student Paul Hanson during a recent pick-up bout at the Harborview Elementary School.

By Heather Montez  
Whalesong Reporter

The Fencing Club has had a slow start, but it is now picking up speed. Currently, the group consists of six to seven dedicated members and senior Tiffany Sargent, the student coordinator for the club, is hoping with the increased advertising, more students will come to their Friday meetings.

The Fencing Club had their second official meeting Nov. 14, and are now planning to meet every Friday from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Harborview Elementary School. At the meetings, students will be taught different moves and the basic techniques from John Rice who is one of the members of the Juneau Fencing Club. His equipment will be used initially until the club is able to purchase some of their own. Sargent is hoping to get funds from Student Government to purchase foils, masks, and vests for each member and a couple of full suits that can be used for competition. Sargent said that Rice is planning on getting people geared up and fencing right away.

Sargent herself began fencing last year while on an exchange program to England and was excited when she knew people were interested in fencing as a club at the university.

"It's a lot of fun. It's a lot of exercise but it's not very aggressive. The exercise is more with your brain. There's a lot of thought process," Sargent said. "It's kind of like chess with swords." Sargent encourages anyone and everyone to come. "Come to participate or come just to watch. Whatever you do you'll have lots of

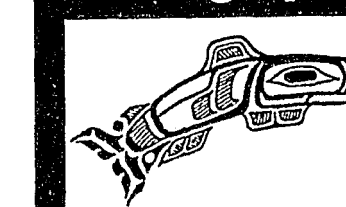
fun," Sargent said. "When I was in England there were people that were short, tall, fat, skinny. If you can breathe and stand you can do it."

Sargent said when members become a little bit better there will be possibilities of competing with some of the other fencers in town.

In the future, the club is hoping to become affiliated with the International Fencing Association which will cover insurance needs. Next semester the club wants to increase their meeting times to two nights a week and hopefully move to Auke Bay School so students won't have to deal with finding transportation downtown. To alleviate part of that problem now, Sargent is trying to acquire the student shuttle van that will be able to take people downtown from the university.

Sargent will be graduating next semester and hopes someone will be enthusiastic enough to keep the group going. For more general information or questions about rides to meetings, you can call Tiffany Sargent at 790-8891 or e-mail her at JSTAS4.

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# Global...

Continued from page 5

turned into a museum with a lot of his things in it — it was absolutely fantastic and I would definitely go back. I guess I should hurry up in here; the computer lab is in the dungeon of this ancient university and is a little scary when everyone leaves . . .

Sept. 30. . . School is good. The dorm life is not like Juneau's, but I am learning to deal with it. My favorite thing is that on the campus, or for that matter anywhere near campus, there is not a laundromat, so it is getting pretty common to see everyone's sink washed underwear and jeans hanging out the window to dry!!! Man, I love this place!! . . . Anyway, it is not as bad as it seems. It is actually quite funny and learning to adjust has been quite an experience. Luckily the weather is beautiful here. . .

Oct. 1. . . I am just writing you to let you know that I received your letter and that things are going good. I am off on a trip to Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Germany and Luxembourg for a week and a half before school starts again so I will be leaving the day after tomorrow. . .

Nov. 3. . . Things are going great here, classes are hectic, but I am finally settling into a schedule. . . I have changed into the exchange student part of the University since I can obtain a French diploma specializing in Economy and Commerce. It is a year long and it will help me in my field of law since that is what I would like to go into after I finish at UAS. I was honored to be placed in the highest level for the exchange student classes; they are the equivalent of attending second year classes at the Uni-

versity with regular French students. I am starting to like things here, it took a little adjusting though!!

Nov. 24. . . Things are great here, classes are going really well. I enjoy them because they are in the direction of law and that is of course what I absolutely love! I have to do a project on women's rights in the United States for my final in my Juridical French class and I have found alot of information on it. My mom has sent me lots of information that was around our house since we both have done speeches on that topic before. I am excited . . .

. . . Otherwise things are great, loads of work! On Wednesday night we have a dinner for all the ISEP students for Thanksgiving; the coordinators here have arranged it so that is really neat. On Thursdays I also have a dinner to go to and it is for all the American (and Canadian, like me!!) students that go to school here so that will be a lot of fun. There are a lot more American students here that I have not met so it will be a fun evening!

For the weekend I am heading to Frankfurt, Germany on Friday to visit my aunt and uncle who live there. We are going to celebrate a late Thanksgiving since my uncle is American. I am very excited. I should return on Monday morning, but some friends and I have been talking about going to EuroDisney and they have Monday off, so . . . Anyway, I will miss two classes, but I haven't missed any yet, even with all the traveling I have done so instead of catching the train back to Caen Monday morning from Paris I will just meet them there! EuroDisney is about a half hour away from Paris so we will catch the late train back to Caen that evening. We will only spend a day at EuroDisney since we have to be in class on Tuesday. I am hoping to return in June when my mom is here anyway since Paris is only two hours away from here . . . That is about it for this side of the Continent today!"

## Getting to know your student government members



Photo by Matt Miller

Southeast Alaskan Tia Rose (left) was a surprise candidate during the last election.

By Crystal Huskey  
Whalesong Reporter

**T**his is the last segment on student government members. Hopefully, this column has helped you to recognize those students who have been elected to represent you-the student body.

Tia (Theresa) Rose had no intention of being involved in student government. Much to her surprise, Rose was elected as a write-in candidate during the September elections. "It's definitely a learning experience," said Rose. "I've never been involved in politics before."

"I see student government becoming a really positive group and I think students are really starting to pay attention to what's going on. There's more support for it [student government] this year," she said. Rose serves on the Activities Committee and on the Public Relations. She is also involved in the new fencing club.

Rose, who is originally from Petersburg, Alaska, is a sophomore majoring in elementary education. Rose

chose to attend UAS for several reasons. "They [UAS] were the most helpful in getting me set up to go to college. I visited the campus and the faculty and staff were very helpful and polite," said Rose.

Rose has no plans of leaving Juneau. "I love my teachers, classes, housing-everything about it. I don't think anywhere else could come close to comparing with UAS", said Rose.

During the summer, Rose can probably be found in Seward, Alaska. She spent last summer living in her Volkswagen bus for four months while working in Seward, and she would love to do that again this summer.

**Editor's note:** We were also scheduled to run a profile on Robb Benitz, but it is unclear whether he is still a member of Student Government. He has not officially resigned, but we have been told that he intends to submit a letter of resignation at the Dec. 12 meeting. Our reporter has noticed that Benitz has not attended the last few student government meetings.

# Knowles...

Continued from page 1

Alaskan economy with those students.

Under his proposal, the top 10 percent of all high school seniors would be offered a full four-year scholarship that would cover tuition and fees at any University of Alaska campus. Knowles expects as many as 600 students would be eligible, eventually costing the state as much as \$2 million a year.

"It will go a long way to rewarding promising young Alaskans, and provide yet one more incentive for them to get their university degrees here," Knowles said.

The governor will ask the Alaska Department of Education and university officials to look over the scholarship program before submitting it in the form of a bill during the next legislative session.

Knowles has not yet briefed legislators — particularly the Republican leadership — on his proposals. They will see the details of the funding increase when he unveils his entire state budget plan later this month. However, some resistance is still expected when the Legislature convenes in January. Republicans are committed to cutting another \$50 million from next year's \$2.4 billion state budget, and any increased funding for the university system may not materialize unless Knowles and other Democrats make concessions during the final days of the upcoming legislative session.

Lind, however, remains confident. "I'm optimistic that they will see the value of some increase for the university, and I'm optimistic that we'll get it," he said.

## UAS Classifieds

### Lost and Found

**LOST:** Black Parker pencil in computer lab Nov. 10. Great sentimental value and it's engraved "We love you, Mom." Please return to computer lab personnel. Thank You.

### For Sale

1976 Toyota Corolla SR5: Runs great! \$950 or best offer. Also, 9-inch color TV with remote. Only \$60. Call Danielle at 790-3229 for more information.

### Miscellaneous

A Turkey Bowl will be held Wednesday, Nov. 26 at 3 p.m. in the Maurant Courtyard. Contestants will "bowl" with a frozen turkey to win prizes.

The campus will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday Nov. 27 and 28. Egan Library will also be closed but will reopen for regular library hours on Nov. 29 (1-5p.m.) and Nov. 30 (1-8 p.m.).

Copier cards for the Egan Library's new double-sided copy machine are available for purchase at the Circulation Desk. These re-useable cards may be purchased in \$5, \$10, or \$20 amounts. Faculty and departmental cards may also be obtained at the Circulation Desk.

The Community Council of the Residence Hall is selling \$10 care packages for students that will be delivered before finals week. Call Timi at 465-6489. Orders due Dec. 5.

UAS Students ... Do you have something to advertise? Take advantage of our FREE classifieds. Non-Student rates are \$10 for up to 25 words, and \$5 each subsequent issue same ad is run. Drop your ad off by our office downstairs in the Maurant Building.